Proper Animal Waste Disposal System 'Must' For Successful Farming

Samuel Deane admonished his fellow farmers "to toss their dung with an air of majesty." That was in 1790 and this is still good advice today. No matter how prosperous a farming operation might be, a poor animal waste disposal system can result in lawsuits initiated by offended neighbors or by regulatory authorities.

Conservation of most farming operations in Virginia has been left on a voluntary basis for the time being.A Major exception is dairy operation and feedlots that have concentrated animal waste. The Enviromental Protection Agency (EPA), is the federal agency responsible for controlling water pollution under Section 208 of the 1972 "Clean Water Act". The goal of this act is no discharge of any pollutants into our nation's waters by 1985. EPA has assigned the enforcement of the "Clean Water Act" to the Virginia State Water Control Board and they have been active in checking animal waste disposal systems.

Before deciding what type of waste disposal system to use, a number of things should be carefully considered. Which system or components will do the best job of collecting the waste from concentrated waste areas? Which would be the cheapest to install and operate? Which would be the best for disposing of manure so as not to degrade the air or water and would make the best use by recycling it through plants? Plants like corn, orchardgrass, or fescue, and bermudagrass are efficient in recycling waste. Any system that involves the collection, storage, and disposal of animal waste in liquid form requires a permit from the state Water Control Board.

University of Maryland made a study of costs of manure handling systems on 163 dairy herds. Various conventional systems, such as scrape-load spread, stacker systems and liquid systems, were considered. for different herd sizes. The The conventional systems, such as scrape-load-spread had the lowest initial investment, while the liquid and stacker systems were most expensive. Once installed, the annual operation costs were also higher for the systems that included storage. But storage, spreading, and immediate plowing under retains the most fertilizer value.

Disposal lagoons are used mostly for swine operations, or for dairies where waste is mostly water such as waste from milking parlors. Most of the nutrient value of manure is lost through microbal activity. At prevailing fertilizer prices, waste from a herd of 100 dairy cows shou..a have a fertilizer value of $5,000 $6,000.

The role of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), in animal waste is to help the farmer design and install a system that will best meets his needs and be approved by the state Water Control Board. "Go slow, do a lot of looking and figuring and seek technical assistance before making a change", says Bob McClenny, District Conservationist, SCS. "And do a good job of housekeeping around the barn and barn lot. Poor housekeeping can get you in difficulty with your neighbors and the Water Control Board really fast", McClenny concludes.

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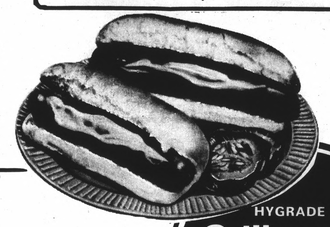

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Consumers Corner

Occupations in Demand
By Glen H. Mitchell
Extension Specialist, Consumer Educaton Va. Tech College of Home Economics

Recent graduates have one thing in common - the hunt for a job.

Job hunting is a difficult and trying task. Adults should be of assistance particularly with younger persons. Some new job hunting help is available in a new edition of the U.S. Department of Labor's publication, "Occupations in Demand."

The new issue is a special one for youthful job applicants seeking entry level positions. A free copy is available by sending a post card to the Consumer Information Center, Dept. 514G, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

The more than 70 job categories listed show that although getting a job is not always easy, there is opportunity for the recent high school or college graduate. Based on Job Bank data from local Job Service offices throughout the country, the statistics show good news for some types of jobs.

For example, computer programming, real estate sales, and insurance sales lead the field with over 4,000 job openings across the country. Insurance sales agents can expect to make between $7,007 and $13,344, with a significant number of job openings in cities like Tampa, Fla., San Antonia, Texas, and Pittsburgh, Pa.

General duty nurses will make $9,213 to $13,867. With over 1,022 nursing jobs available nationwide earlier this year, nurses can pick their city from Washington, D.C. to Phoenix, Ariz.

An electronics technician can earn between $8,365 and $16,473. Cities with a significant number of openings include Rochester, N.Y., Des Moines, Iowa, and San Diego, Calif.

Management trainees are in demand too. They can earn between $6,365 and $11,297 and work at a fast food operation, a credit union, or any number of retail stores. Opportunities abound in cities like Denver, Colo., New Orleans, La., St. Louis, Mo., Houston, Texas and Baltimore, Md.

Telephone operators, tellers, typists and teachers' aids will find many openings as well.

The Job Service office, listed in the telephone book as "State Employment Security Office," under State government listings, will have local information on how to apply for these job opportunities.

MT. AIRY NEWS

Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m., July 22, 1979 a program was sponsored by Rev. Deb Christian for the benefit of the Mt. Airy Baptist Church Building Fund.

Opening Song, "What A Fellowship." Scripture, Rev. Jonia. Prayer, Dea. Herman Megginson. Song, "God Has Smiled on Me." Introduction of the group, Rev. Deb Christian. Guest Group, The Beams of Glory.

Songs (First Half) Building A Home, Someone To Care, Soon and Very Soon, Softly and Tenderly, Lord You Know You've Been So Good, Jesus Took My Burdens Away, and Left Me a Song. Offering Deacons, Ed McCoy, Charlie Napier. Total $77.10. Prayer over offering, Dea Napier.

Songs (Second half) Show Me The Way, I Won't Have To Cry No More. It's Almost Over (and I won't have to cry anymore). Jesus Will Fix It. God Is Not Pleased With This World Today. Lord I Need You. If I Perish, I Have Dreamed of a City (Called Glory). Closing song, Reach Ot and Touch Someone's Hand

Benediction, Rev. Deb Christian.

JUL